

A silhouette of a person in a wheelchair being assisted by another person on a beach at sunset. The scene is reflected in the water, creating a symmetrical image. The sky is a gradient of orange and yellow, transitioning into a dark blue at the horizon. The water is calm, showing clear reflections of the figures and the sky.

**THE ROAD TO ACHIEVING BARRIER FREE UNIVERSAL
ACCESS IN BANGLADESH, LEARNING & EXPERIENCE
AFTER TEN YEARS**

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- We are born disabled
disability means restricted.
More often it defines physically
challenged.



- Challenged in their abilities to
perform normal human life.



- Planning for people with variable
abilities & disabilities.



Handicap is not synonym for physically challenged?!

Who are:

- Ambulant disabled
- Wheel chair bound
- Hearing impairment or deafness
- Visual impairment/ blindness



Neither in built environment, nor in urban design- barrier free accessibility is primordial right

A black and white photograph showing a person in a wheelchair positioned at the bottom of a wide set of stairs. The person is looking up at the stairs, which represent a significant physical barrier to access. The wheelchair is in the foreground, and the stairs lead upwards into the background. The lighting is dramatic, with strong shadows.

Why barrier free?

- 650 million individuals are physically challenged. In Bangladesh i.e 6-8% according to N.G.Os / development actors. But real statistics are more.
- Accessible physical environment covers access to built environment & transport system. Access to services & information are as important as education & employment.
- Universal design is the barrier free access.

YOU GAVE US YOUR DIMES



NOW WE WANT OUR RIGHTS

The beginning of legislation- first ten years 1993-2003

- In 1993 UN declaration – states should take initiative to remove obstructions.
-- Architects & professionals involved in design process should have adequate information on disability policy & measures to achieve.
- In 1995 UNESCAP - Terms confide with built environment accessibility, access or accessible, reach ability, usability, safety, workability & barrier free.
- In 2002 – BIWAKO Millennium Framework for action.
- In 2001 ARCASIA Conference – Prof J.KWAN & IAB,
 - Govt. bodies – public works department/ LGED/ DOA
 - BUET / Private Universities/ IAB/ IEB/ NGO
 - Gradually BNBC- Building Construction rules - formalization

Standardizing Building Construction Rule

After ten years 2003-2013

- In 2006 – BNBC 1993 was adopted by the parliament.
- In 2008 – ‘Imarat Nirman Bidhimala’ was adopted. Liable to different development agencies (RAJUK, C.D.A, K.D.A, Municipality, Housing Department.
- Code as – Architectural Requirement for design
1993
 1. Parking area to lift lobby.
 2. Provision of at least one toilet / 5% of total number.
 3. One demarcated parking space / 5% of total number.
 4. Minimum dimension for wheel chair movement.
 5. Brail walkways.
 6. Use of color ‘railings/ doors’ & visual graphics.
- In 2005 - BNBC, NGOs formed a consultative group.
Who prepared-
 1. A set of standards with dimension guide line.
 2. A manual – Accessibility for all.

BANGLADESH NATIONAL BUILDING CODE

1993

Building Research Institute

Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution

Problems - Issues & Analytical options

Issues:

- Ignored & not given priority.
- Treated to be handled only when really necessary.
- More often considered for Hospitals, Clinics as these buildings will have physically challenged visitors & occupants.

Analytical options

(10 districts in Bangladesh outside of Dhaka):

- 11 out of 176 buildings i.e 92.5% are somewhat accessible.
- No ramps for wheel chairs
- No sufficient space at doorways . (1500 mm X 1500 mm)
- Inadequate facility of infra-structure for disability.
- Absence of signage/ visual graphics.
- No demarcation by color.

Irony ???

- Primary schools – ramps without standard narrow & steep- result no use
- BRTC Bus – 2 seats allocated, but no provision at bus entrance from road.



Bus entry should be like this — — — — — >



Inefficient ramps with improper or no use!

Public buildings without universal access



PUBLIC LIBRARY DEPARTMENT



ARCHITECTURE BUILDING

Private buildings without universal access

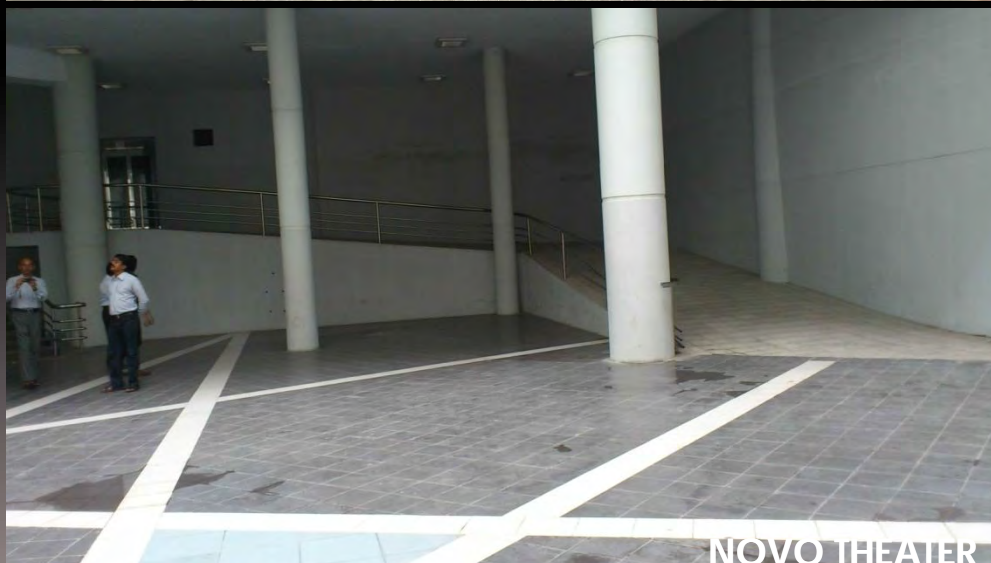


Recent Development

- World Cup Cricket 2010-
Mirpur Stadium- Toilet/ Logo/ Ramp
- National Museum – BUET & committee for accomplishment of universal accessibility
- Liberation War Memorial, New Academic Building at BUET, Head quarter of Sonali (state owned) Bank.
- Public buildings- Secretariat, Govt. hospitals
- Private buildings- Hospitals, Commercial towers.

Buildings can be made more accessible for physically challenged at little or no extra cost, if it is considered at planning stage.

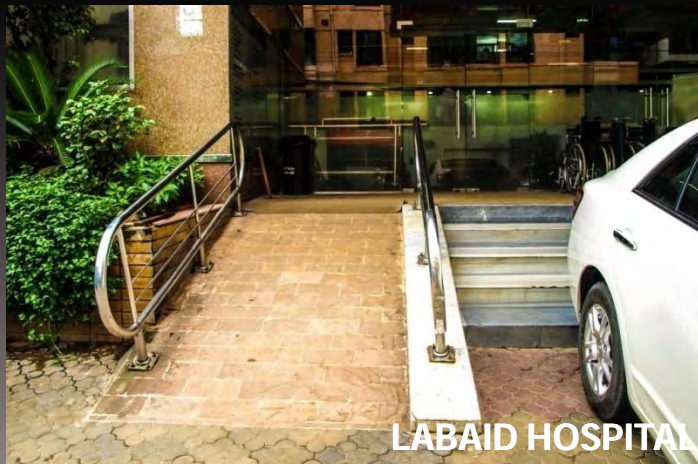
• Public buildings with universal access



- National Museum – BUET & committee for accomplishment of universal accessibility



• Private buildings with universal access




Awareness

- To the policy makers who will decide for universal accessibility.
- To the designers/ professionals who will come up with solution.
- To the owners who will invest into universal accessibility in the field & built environment.





Universal Accessibility for All

- Not only ramps/ toilets but need of four physical or sensory disabilities- Giving ease to physically challenged people.
 - BNBC/ Building Construction Rules/ By laws are standard but architects/ designers put this into harmonical process with their intuitive or innovative ideas.
 - Universal accessibility is made mandatory for all public as well as private buildings.
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Private University Campus:

Ahsanullah University of Science & Technology



Above all

- It is not a matrix rather it is our freedom to enter, to enjoy & being inside of built form/ environment.
- Awareness – sought for innovations & codes are to be put as an element of integral part of built form.
- Architecture is a thoughtful process of making of spaces. It's not just filling prescriptions or fitting uses into dimensioned areas. It is a '**Creating of Spaces**' – that evokes a feeling of use & brings sense of belongingness.



Four Freedom Park at Roosevelt Island





FOUR FREEDOM PARK AT ROOSEVELT ISLAND



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FOUR FREEDOM PARK AT ROOSEVELT ISLAND



THANK YOU

Presented by
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